WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 JANUARY 1980

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE TO INVENTORY ARTIFACTS; INFORMATION SOUGHT

Because of longstanding lack of a museum or adequate storage space, the Washtenaw County Historical Society depends on a number of kind persons to keep Society artifacts in their homes and elsewhere.

A WCHS collections committee has been formed to inventory and label Society artifacts on loan and carry on work done by Stuart Thayer.

Thayer catalogued a large part of the collection stored in U-M space at Willow Run Airport and items at Kempf House before he resigned to write a book on the circus.

Patricia Austin is chairman and Alice Ziegler, co-chairman. Dr. John C. Dann, vice-president of WCHS and director of the U-M's Clements Library, will catalogue Society possessions and new gifts.

Of course the Society still doesn't have a working museum and enough space for everything but it would like at least to adequately identify the many items given to the Society over the years wherever they may be.

If you have information about such items would you please telephone or write Mrs. Austin at 1931 Coronada Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, telephone 663-5281 or Mrs. Ziegler at 537 Riverview Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, telephone 663-8826.

START THE YEAR RIGHT – JOIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It's time to renew your membership or join the Washtenaw County Historical Society. There are lots of interesting meetings coming up—how about this month's "Snakes in the Brass"! *The Impressions* will come your way September through May. And you'll help preserve Washtenaw's heritage.

Please don't forget to send in your enclosed notice.

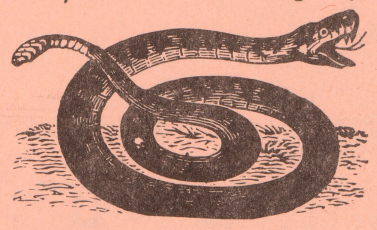
NOTHING TO FEAR FROM 'SNAKES IN THE BRASS', TOPIC OF WCHS JANUARY 31 MEETING AT STEARNS

"Snakes in the Brass: The Times and Tunes of a Couple of Musical Reptiles" is the intriguing title of the January WCHS meeting, but even the most timid snake-fearing person need have no qualms. It's not a singing—or rattling—snake act really.

Bob Eliason, curator of musical instruments at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, will talk about and demonstrate antique musical instruments including "serpents" and "ovaclydes".

The act—er—the program has been scheduled at 8 p.m. Thursday, January 31, a week later than usual, at the University of Michigan's Stearns Building on North Campus. It is just off Broadway on Baits Drive at Gilbert Court. Baits enters North Campus between Cedar Bend and Murfin. There is a metered lot behind the building for parking.

Eliason, an acknowledged expert on early music, has been at Ford Museum since 1971. After U-M graduation he earned a Master's at Manhattan School of Music and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri at Kansas City where he played tuba with the Kansas City Philharmonic for ten years. He has also made recordings and played occasionally with Ann Arbor groups.



MRS. FREEMAN PUBLISHES HISTORY OF DIXBORO

A new 153 page illustrated history, *Of Dixboro: Lest We Forget* by Carol Willits Freeman, lifelong resident, recently came off the press, the result of five year's work.

It tells about the village from Sea Captain John Dix's original purchase in 1824 to recent times including the famous ghost. It also has a section, "Nostalgic Memories of My Childhood" and another, "The Old Houses of Dixboro".

It is available from the author at 3335 Alan Mark Drive in Dixboro for $6 plus mailing. Her telephone is 662-1854.

VAN OR TRUCK NEEDED

Is there a van or truck owner who would help or loan his vehicle to WCHS to transport large items to the homeshow Friday, March 14?

Wystan and Catherine Stevens will set up the Society exhibit booth but they do not have a suitable vehicle to haul things. There may also be items donated to the auction which will need hauling. If you can help please telephone the Stevenses at 761-4510.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR BENEFIT AUCTION THE MORE, THE BETTER

Now is the time to plan a bigger and better WCHS benefit auction at the annual home show March 14-16. Lots of items are needed to auction off—the more the better. The auction will be at 7pm Friday the 14th. off—the more the better.

So please scratch your head and think. Do you have something or could you get someone to donate something? Or will you bake a cherry pie? Baked goods are good sellers too.

Homeshow promoters Pat and John Danovich have again planned the auction. Lloyd Braun and Jerry Helmer, well-known local auctioneers, have agreed to donate their services.

WCHS netted $1,766 from the show and auction last year and that was a first. If you have an auction donation, please telephone Jewel Reynolds at 662-0139 or Lois Foyle at 663-8159 after 7 p.m.

PHOTO CURATOR GIVES CLUES

Tintype? Daguerrotype? Which Is It?

Wondering if that old picture of stern-looking great Aunt Samantha is a daguerrotype or a tintype?

Cynthia Read of Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn explained the differences as she traced the history of photography at the November WCHS meeting. She illustrated her talk with slides of pictures from the museum including a number of early Washtenaw County scenes and discussed care of old photographs.

Miss Read is assistant librarian for cataloguing and research at the museum with particular interest in old photographs.

She defined a photograph as "any image made on a surface which is rendered through chemicals responsive to light." Photography started as an effort to reproduce an exact replica.

Early photography developed in two forms—the single image type like the daguerrotype and the repeatable image type like what we make today.

"In the very beginning there was a French Army officer named Joseph Nicéphore Niepce in the 1820's who was interested in lithography with light sensitive chemicals—what we now call photography. In 1926 he produced what he called a heliograph. It took eight hours and we think it's just a picture of the view outside his window. It's very, very fuzzy.

"Also in the 1820's there was a painter named Louis Jacques Mandés Daguerre who was also interested in light sensitive processes. He was projecting things and sketching them but he said "Wouldn't it be easier if I could just project them and they would stick?"

"He corresponded with Mr. Niepce and they worked together from 1829 until Niepce died in 1833. Based on that, Daguerre took off and in 1837 made the first photo image. He called it a daguerrotype because in his mind it was different than the heliograph Niepce had done. That name just took off.

Courtesy of Henry Ford Museum

THOMAS ALVA EDISON, AGE 4
1851 daguerrotype.

"Rather than it being patented and held, at least in the beginning, the French government made the details public in 1839. It spread like wildfire. In 1840 the first studio for making daguerrotypes appeared in America in New York City.

"The original daguerrotype image was formed in what was called a *camera obscura* (simply Latin for 'dark room'). It was a dark room with a hole, with or without a lens. Light would come through the hole and he would sketch the landscape image. This was popular in the eighteenth century.

"Daguerre made it smaller and put a lens on it. He used a polished copper plate with light sensitive materials. The image came in, was projected on the copper plate and stayed there because of the light sensitive materials—a chemical reaction, that's all it is.

"The daguerrotype is a single image process. It was at once a negative and a positive. The copper plate developed all by itself in the *camera obscura.*"

She showed slides of several daguerrotypes and tintypes beginning with a daguerrotype of Thomas Alva Edison at age 4 in 1851.

She noted that if you scratch a daguerrotype, you take the emulsion off and it's irretrievable. The emulsion is what the light sensitive materials are called.

"Daguerrotypes were very popular as portraits and people would sit for their photographs up to five minutes. The first ones in the 1840's were landscapes because it would take hours, but everything progressed rapidly and soon they could do it in two to five minutes.

"The primary ways to identify a daguerrotype include the simultaneous negative and positive qualities which can be seen depending on the angle of light plus its mirror qualities. If it reflects things that's a dead giveaway for a daguerrotype.

"Daguerrotypes and ambrotypes were often in very nice cases, covered in satin or velvet. They would have a mat and clear glass cover to prevent scratching. If you take it out of the case to clean it, put it back.

"In the 1850's came a much faster and less expensive method for producing one or more images—the tintype." One tintype showed a child in a chair with a special arm surrounding her to keep her in place. "An adult would probably stand so you couldn't see the paraphernalia.

"They couldn't smile—who can hold a smile for that long?"

The tintype also has the chemicals on the front of the plate and is subject to scratching, she noted. If they are out of the case, they are dark brown or black on the back, not copper. Most of what you run into, if it's metal, is going to be a tintype especially if it doesn't have any mirror qualities.

It's very flat and the details are not nearly as clear as in a daguerrotype.

"Parallel to the development of the single image form of photography, others were working with what we now call negatives and developing them onto paper, making positive prints.

"The first to successfully do this was an Englishman, William Henry Fox Talbot. In 1841, he recorded his first image on paper and printed it onto another paper as a positive. In 1844 he produced a book, "The Pencil of Nature", the first ever printed with actual photographs. There were about two dozen. They weren't just utilitarian shots, but showed use of composition.

"The drawback to this was that you've got the grain of the paper on the negative and more grain on the paper of the print so it's fuzzy. These are very rare and most of them are known. They are called Talbottypes or calotypes. They are not out-of-focus fuzzy but have a halo. I don't have a calotype. I've only seen one.

"The paper negative was waxed to make it as transparent as possible. Just as today you send some light source through it and develop it with other chemicals. Usually they are contact prints.

"In 1851, another Englishman, Frederick Scott Archer, a sculptor, was working on glass negatives. He came up with a method of using collodion as the adhesive to keep the light sensitive chemicals on the glass. Two results of this were the ambrotype and a paper print similar to the calotype.

"The ambrotype is a glass negative made positive by a black paper backing. They don't have the shine of the daguerrotype and they look grayish, even with the backing. If you're collecting photographs, a good way to instantly compare whether you have an ambrotype or a daguerrotype is to prop the picture up at right angles to a light piece of paper. The daguerrotype, like a mirror, will reflect the paper and also show its negative qualities. An ambrotype with its black backing will not reflect the paper and remains a positive.

Courtesy of Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Michigan

ANN ARBOR'S MICHIGAN CENTRAL DEPOT, CIRCA 1910
Original by Detroit Publishing Company. Depot now Gandy Dancer Restaurant.

"Small photographs, three by five inches or smaller, called *"cartes de visite"* (visiting card in French) became very popular in the 1860's and '70's up to 1910. Many *cartes de visite* have the photographer's name and other information on them."

Of one solemn child, she said, "She was probably told not to smile, although by then the chemicals they used were probably getting images in thirty seconds or less."

A *carte de visite* of Lincoln from the Ford Museum collection says on the back, "Brady's National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C." Originally taken by Matthew Brady, it was reproduced many times and sold either through the country or in Washington D.C. to visitors, she said.

They had cameras that would expose four pictures at once, but they did not have the enlarging process then.

"Another popular use of photographs, paper prints as well as tintypes, was as stereographs. Perhaps you've seen the holder you look through and you can see what looks like a three dimensional view." She had examples from the Keystone View Company. They are easily identified as stereographs because they were sold commercially and have the company name.

She showed local views taken by Detroit Publishing Company about 1910 and asked for more information about them. They included the Michigan Central Depot (now Gandy Dancer Restaurant), views along the Huron River, and unpaved Washtenaw Avenue, thickly lined with trees, a brick Huron Street, the old Court House, Main Street, the "old Post Office", predecessor of the present "old Post Office" on North Main Street, State Street and campus scenes.

Campus scenes included the "new" Engineering Building, interiors of the floor of the "great testing tank" and the general library room with large rounded windows, students in beanies and women graduates lifting their skirts out of a puddle.

Also shown were the School of Music on Maynard Street, the Homeopathic Medical College, the Observatory which seemed to be out in the country in 1910, and fraternity houses.

How should you handle a photograph? "Its nature is chemical. From the day it's made, it starts to deteriorate, not because of anything the photographer did wrong, but because of its nature.

"Try to control its climate. You don't want it too moist. You'll get

fungus growing very rapidly in those chemicals and you'll have irretrievable damage.

"Heat encourages further deterioration of chemicals. More chemical action goes on. You want something cool but dry, but not dry enough to make it brittle. You want about thirty percent humidity.

"This is particularly true with color, which is very unstable. Most black and white photographs to our eyes do not change in 20 or 30 years and even 100 years old still look all right, but even if you keep color as well as you can they start to deteriorate. The best that conservationists have come up with to date is to put them in a refrigerator with humidity control just above freezing or even frozen.

"After climate, try to control the amount of light. Dark is best. A metal cabinet is probably best. Photographic conservation is an infant field, she noted, and new findings may come out.

"Avoid acidic papers. You also have to make sure acid free paper does not have sulfur in it because that will harm the chemicals worse. Right now we think a very good medium is mylar plastic sleeves. The only caution is that if you don't have humidity control you might get fungus.

"Personally, for my own photos, I use 100 percent acid-free bond paper, making sure it does not have any sulfur in it and I make seamless envelopes. You have to watch glue and tape because as they age they give off chemicals which react with photographic chemicals and harm them.

"The less rubbing or cleaning, except by a professional, the better. I don't do anything except maybe blow across mine. If you take water or anything else you're going to start more reactions on that surface, especially negatives."

Old nitrate based negatives from before 1930 can be a fire hazard, she said. A photgraph conservator or professional photographer can determine the condition of such negatives, whether deterioration has advanced to the point where spontaneous combustion might occur. The safest thing to do is probably to have them copied, she said.

"If I could only put pictures in an attic or cellar, I'd put them in the attic. Once you get fungus, there's no image left at all.

"It's important just to keep pictures in a good atmosphere and not handle them a lot. This is a problem for public libraries," she noted, who cannot deny access. "In museums things get buried. They say it's in storage, which is true. No one goes through our files except me. I find the photographs for users."

PRESERVING GRASS ROOTS IN HISTORY IS AIM OF TOWNSHIP RECORDS SURVEY NOW UNDERWAY

In the good old days a groundhog who saw his shadow on February 2 or any other time risked becoming a township statistic.

In our more agricultural past when a valuable plowhorse might break a leg in a groundhog hole, the only good groundhog was a dead one and bounties were offered. Bounties also were offered for English sparrows also considered a pest.

Records of such bounties and of estrays—stray farm animals—are among the more unusual records uncovered to date in a systematic Washtenaw County records survey now underway.

The goal is to locate, describe and promote the preservation of local public records of historical interest. Cathy Abernathy is conducting the survey which is sponsored by the Michigan State Archives and Bentley Historical Library. Partly funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, it is similar to other surveys underway in several Michigan counties and many other states.

Mrs. Abernathy plans to visit all the townships in the next two or three months but she also hopes to identify records elsewhere in the community. She plans to contact local historical societies, libraries and interested persons. She would also appreciate hearing from anyone with information at 764-3482 (Bentley Library).

The survey is primarily interested in nineteenth century records though not limited to that period. The main types of records sought are minutes of township meetings, vital records (births, deaths), assessment rolls, school district records, highway or road records, health records, voter registration books (1905-1913) and any kind of records before 1870.

So far she has visited about a third of the townships and found fairly complete runs of township minutes and assessment roll books and a variety of other records.

The goal of the survey is preservation and retention in the local community, not transfer. An inventory will be prepared as an aid to historians and placed on file at Bentley and in Lansing. Each township is furnished with an inventory of their own records also.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Chelsea Historical Society—Meets at 8 p.m. second Monday of month at McKune Memorial Library, 221 South Main Street.

Manchester Historical Society—Meets at 8 p.m. fourth Monday of month, alternately at the Methodist and Emanuel United Church of Christ. January 28 meeting will be at the Methodist Church.

Milan Historical Society—Meets at 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday at the Hack House, site of their future museum.

Saline Historical Society—Meets at 8 p.m. third Tuesday usually at high school library. January meeting was to be at Weller's.

Ypsilanti Historical Society—Mrs. Donald Shankwiler will talk about "Depot Town" at the annual business meeting from 3—5 p.m. Sunday, January 20.

PARR HEADS SOCIETY

Howard E. Parr has been reelected president of the Manchester Historical Society. Elizabeth Grossman is first vice-president; Frances Nathan, second vice-president; Hazel Kappler, secretary; and Dorothy Mann, treasurer. Directors Bob Ross and Liz Beuerle complete the seven member board.

DECEMBER 25 JUST ANOTHER DAY

CHRISTMAS USED TO BE BANNED IN BOSTON

Nowadays signs of Christmas are almost everywhere in December but in Puritan Massachusetts you could have been fined five shillings for celebrating the holiday.

For much of our history December 25 was just another day of business as usual for many Americans.

Those facts have made it a problem to put on a Christmas display at the U-M's Clements Library of early Americana, Dr. John C. Dann, director, explained in brief remarks about the exhibit at the December WCHS meeting at the library.

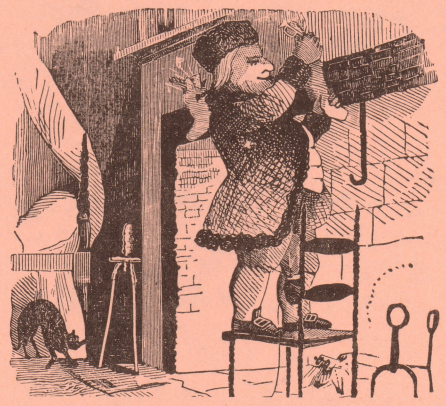
The Society gathered for eggnog and cookies at the Palladian style Indiana sandstone library designed by Albert Kahn which has been called a "campus gem". The event took place under the frescoed ceiling of the main hall. Its walls are paneled in English oak and lined with shelves of rare volumes dealing with various aspects of American history.

It was built in 1922-23, a gift to the University from William L. Clements (1861-1934) of Bay City, to house the collection of early Americana he gave to the U-M. He was an alumnus and regent as well as an industrialist, banker and bibliophile.

Augmenting the display of printed materials from the library's collection were some antique dolls, doll furniture and toys from the WCHS collection.

"The Presbyterians and Quakers as well as the Puritans opposed Christmas," Dr. Dann continued. "Of course the origin of these denominations was in opposition to the Church of Rome and the Anglican or Episcopal Church.

"One of the most obvious features of those churches was an emphasis on festival days so they wiped out the whole festival calendar. The only celebration day that the Puritans recognized was Thanksgiving—and that didn't have to be at any particular time of the year. That was the one holiday that anybody in Massachusetts had until the



Courtesy of Clements Library, U-M

EARLY SANTA
From 1848 edition of
A Visit from St. Nicholas.

1840's or '50's.

"This was not the case with Virginians who were at least nominally Episcopalians and had something of a tradition of good times. Although you'd be surprised if you go to Colonial Williamsburg you would think that the eighteenth century Virginians made a great big deal of Christmas.

"I used to live there and I saw behind the scenes and I can tell you they had very little documentation that the average colonial Virginian celebrated Christmas day to any great extent. I have pulled out a couple of things in my display which show that at least there was a little more emphasis there.

"Now the Germans—the Lutherans and Moravians in particular had more interest in Christmas. Certainly Martin Luther wrote "Away In A Manger" and you have more of a Christmas tradition from Germany. Where you have large concentrations of German settlers in Pennsylvania, western Virginia and North Carolina you do have some celebration of Christmas.

"As America grew in age and the Germans and the English and the various ethnic groups began to meld together in the early nineteenth century you began to have acceptance of Christmas and the singing of carols.

"'The Night Before Christmas' was first published in1823 and this brings us our Santa Claus. Now there was a tradition of St. Nicholas in Holland and New Amsterdam and New York but it was the publication of 'The Night Before Christmas' and its republication in the 1830's, '40's and '50's that made Santa Claus a part of everybody's Christmas. Before that nobody in Virginia who was celebrating Christmas say in 1820 had ever heard of Santa Claus or St. Nicholas.

"The Christmas tree was introduced by German immigrants who came in vast numbers in the 1840's. The first recorded Christmas trees are about 1841, '42 or '43. By the Civil War the Christmas tree had become a regular part of Christmas.

"Then New York, the importing center of the United States, became the toy capital and enterprising merchants began to see the possibilities. In my display there is a *New York Tribune* article for 1859 which sort of evaluates the Christmas season from the mercantile point of view.

"So you already have a full-blown materialistic Christmas by the Civil War period.

"I have some Civil War letters from soldiers which describe decorating the camp. The last item in the exhibit is an 1863 print we just got—a Christmas riddle. It lists wines, liquor, fish, game, vegetables, etc. There is a riddle for each kind of food or liquor. If you solve it you come up with such things as ham, lamb, pork—all the 150 items that were supposedly being served at this Christmas dinner.

"I had somebody type out these riddles—a couple we could hardly figure out what they said—but we have a $5 prize for whoever can solve the most."

The Christmas riddle, from Salem, Massachusetts, in 1863 is proof positive that New England had "thawed out" since the seventeenth century era of witch trials and Christmas fines, Dann observed.

The exhibit started with the Christmas story in early Bibles—a 1639 London edition, another

printed in Trenton, New Jersey, in 1788, and the Eliot Indian-language Bible, published in 1685 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. There was also a 1627 *Book of Common Prayer* containing the Apocrypha pointing out the basis of the Jewish Hannukah in the Book of Maccabees.

An almanac published in Virginia in 1766 had this rhyme:

"Now Christmas comes, 'tis fit that we
Should feast and sing and merry be.
Keep open house, let fidlers (sic) play,
A fig for cold, sing care away;
And may they who whereat repine,
On brown bread and small beer dine."

The Hack Atlas of the South Seas, the library's greatest acquisition in 1979 was based on a Spanish atlas captured by Bartholemew Sharpe and some pirates in 1681. "On the way back to England, they celebrated Christmas in a manner befitting men of their sort, eating a pig and a pet dog!" Dann observes.

All that is in contrast to the 1672 Massachusetts law that "whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing labour, feasting, or any such other way upon any such account aforesaid, every such person so offending, shall pay for every such offense five shillings as fine to the County."

A 1744 Presbyterian directory for public worship printed by Benjamin Franklin noted:

"Festival days, vulgarly called Holy Days having no warrant in the Word of God, are not to be continued." Quaker discipline also prohibited recognition of "Holy Days".

Music and hymns were used in German settlements in America and carols were also part of the English tradition. Singing societies grew up in the late eighteenth century and gradually singing of hymns was accepted in Congregational and Presbyterian Churches. Then Christmas music began to appear in print.

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing", is included in "The Chorister's Companion", New Haven, 1792, although it was sung at any time of the year and not part of Christmas.

By the early 1820's a Presbyterian Church in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, an area populated by about half German and half Scotch-Irish, advertised a Christmas concert. This congregation was 20 to 30 years ahead of its other Presbyterian brethren in accepting such a thing.

"'Toy books' given by parents and teachers as a reward for good behavior were the first widely used Christmas presents." One was titled *The Mother's Gift or A Present for All Little Boys Who Wish To Be Good*, 1809.

The same *Carlisle Adviser* which advertised the Presbyterian concert

Courtesy of Clements Library, U-M

THOMAS NAST'S SANTA
Christmas Drawings for The Human Race, 1890.

admonished givers of 'toy books' that "The judicious and thoughtful . . . will be concerned that what they give may not only contribute to the amusement, but to the profit of the children . . . Long have they been cheated by your *Goody Twoshoes, Tom Thumb* and *Jack, The Giant Killer*. Such trash had better remain on the shelves."

New York booksellers were the first group of American merchants to aim advertisements specifically at the holiday trade. There were ornate gift books and annuals for adults. *Peter Parley's Story of The Little Soldiers*, Boston, 1829, for children, featured a colored frontispiece. Another title was *Bertha's Christmas Vision*, Boston, 1856, the first book written by Horatio Alger.

The editor of the *Troy Sentinel* would have been surprised if he could have known the impact a short piece of anonymous poetry first published in his December 23, 1823, issue was to have on American history," Dr. Dann noted. "That is where "The Night Before Christmas or A Visit from St. Nicholas" first appeared in print.

"Clement C. Moore, a wealthy New Yorker composed the poem while driving in his sleigh. It drew upon the Dutch tradition of St. Nicholas."

(The same issue of the *Troy Sentinel* announces a meeting at 7 p.m. December 25 at the courthouse to form a society to aid in colonization by free people of color in this country on the coast of Africa. The movement had started in 1816 and led to the founding of Liberia.)

The old Dutch St. Nicholas poem on which Moore's poem was based says in part:

"St. Nicholas, my dear good friend,
To serve you ever was my end;
If you me now something will give,
Serve you I will as long as I live."

"More than any other source, Moore's poem established the themes of the American secular celebration of Christmas."

"The first pictorial representation of Santa was in 1840. He was not as fat, nor red, nor quite as old as the modern Santa. Thomas Nast, the famous cartoonist started to draw Santa Claus and Christmas scenes annually in *Harper's Weekly* during the Civil War. By 1890 the modern Santa of department stores and Coca Cola advertisements had been established.

"*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens was published in 1843. He was the most popular mid-nineteenth century literary figure in America as well as England. The book helped further establish Christmas as a respectable diversion with a positive moral theme."

By 1864, Jane Croly describes purchasing Christmas tree decorations in New York City, imported from France and Germany. She describes "little ermine muffs—pull the tiny tassel at one end of the pink silk lining and out comes the inside in the form of a hollow tube full of lemon drops.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR BUFFS, GENEALOGISTS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SOME OF THESE PUBLICATIONS

Revolutionary war buffs and genealogists looking for ancestors who served in that war might be interested in some bicentennial era publications of the William L. Clements Library of Early Americana at the University of Michigan.

Perhaps most useful to the latter would be *Fighters For Independence: A Guide To Sources of Biographical Information on Soldiers and Sailors of the American Revolution*, edited by J. Todd White and Charles H. Lesser, 1977, $8.

A second title lists all battles and skirmishes with the number of casualities, something never before compiled in one place; a third gives military strength reports; while a fourth reprints important documents in Clements Library. There is also an atlas of manuscript maps of the Revolution and a guide to manuscript collections of Clements.

These are in addition to Director John C. Dann's work, *The Revolution Remembered*, a compilation of interesting stories and sidelights on the war gleaned from 80,000 pension applications, to be published in April.

The titles are:

The Toll of Independence: Engagements and Battle Casualties of the American Revolution, edited by Howard H. Peckham, $8.50.

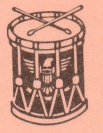
The Sinews of Independence: Monthly Strength Reports of the Continental Army, edited by Lesser, $12.50.

Sources for American Independence: Selected Manuscripts from the Collections of the William L. Clements Library, edited by Peckham, two volumes.

(All the above available from University of Chicago Press, 5801 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637.)

Campaigns of the American Revolution: An Atlas of Manuscript Maps, edited by Peckham and Douglas Marshall, $25, available from U-M Press, 839 Green Street, Ann Arbor 48106.

Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the William L. Clements Library, edited by Arlene P. Shy, $23.50 from G. K. Hall, 70 Lincoln Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02111.



"SLANDERING T. R."

Three friends had just purchased automobiles, and decided that appropriate ceremonies were in order to christen the machines. On the day set for the christening the three machines were lined up in a row—a Packard, a Buick and a Ford.

The owner of the Packard broke a bottle of champagne over the radiator of his machine, at the same time exclaiming:

"I christen thee George Washington; first in peace, first in war, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

The owner of the Buick then broke a bottle of grape juice over his machine, with the words:

"I christen thee Abraham Lincoln—honest all through."

Then the Ford owner stepped forward, broke a bottle of beer over his machine, and exclaimed:

"I christen thee Theodore Roosevelt, you roughriding son of a gun."

From "Ford Smiles: All the Best Current Jokes About a Rattling Good Car," by Carleton B. Case, Shrewesbury Publishing Company, Chicago, 1917.

MILAN RE-ELECTS HALE

Warren R. Hale was re-elected president of the Milan Historical Society for 1980. Arleigh Squires is vice-president; Lorene Burger, secretary; and Carole Smith, treasurer. Directors completing the eight member board are Bill Smith, Oliver, Curry, Ken Baumann and Eva Clark.

NEWS FROM CHATTANOOGA

Frederick O. Bishop, 88, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, who has shared some of his recollections of early twentieth century Ann Arbor on these pages from time to time writes that Barton Dam Powerhouse was built about 1913 when he was a U-M engineering student and wishes WCHS success in its museum project.

He writes that a new Chattanooga Museum of Regional History is being developed there in a former city school building. It is located at the center of the Civil War battlefield of Missionary Ridge, a few hundred feet from the headquarters of Confederate General Bragg who lost the battle there in November 1863.

The museum is collecting letters and records of the war and events that took place in southeast Tennessee and the nearby corners of Georgia and Alabama. He and his wife are both Civil War history buffs. Each had a great uncle who fought at Missionary Ridge and his died there.

Bishop offers to show any WCHS members going through Chattanooga around if they will give him a call at 624-0297.

LOIS MOORE RE-ELECTED

Chelsea Historical Society re-elected Lois Moore President. Other officers are Sally Rendell, vice-president; Chrissy Wagner, secretary; Max Hepburn, treasurer; and directors, Britton Graham, one-year term, Otis Titus, two years and Harold Jones, life member.

THANKS, DECEMBER HELPERS

Many thanks to Clements Library and those who assisted with the meeting there. Assisting with host and hostess duties were Dr. and Mrs. John Dann, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Warzynski, Mr. and Mrs. David Pollock, Leigh Anderson, Flora Burt, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kempf, Lois Foyle and Alice Ziegler.

Cooky donors included Florence Armbruster, Reeva Cranor, Lois Foyle, Carol Freeman, Mary Heald, Ethelyn Morton, Dorothy Ouradnik, Millicent Willits and Alice Ziegler.

BOOK CONSERVATOR TO TALK

James Craven, University of Michigan book conservator at Bentley Library, will discuss preservation of documents and papers at the Sunday, January 27 meeting of the Genealogy Society of Washtenaw County at Washtenaw Community College.

The regular meeting will begin at 2:30 p.m. A beginners class will start at 1 p.m. led by Polly Bender, chairman of the education committee. Lydia Muncy will talk about the important tool of oral history. There will also be a help session.

THIS WAS FUNNY IN 1917:

"HISTORICAL ITEM OF THE FUTURE: **Gasoline Riots in New York.** On the morning of the third day a large mob of auto owners collected in Madison Square Garden and threatened to burn the city. The price of gasoline had gone to a dollar a gallon the night before. The Mayor was powerless. Bands of desperate men, starving for gasoline, were marching over the surrounding country. Walking was taught in many schools—others learned it by themselves.—Life"

From "Ford Smiles: All the Best Current Jokes About A Rattling Good Car" by Carleton B. Case, Shrewesbury Publishing Company, Chicago, 1917.

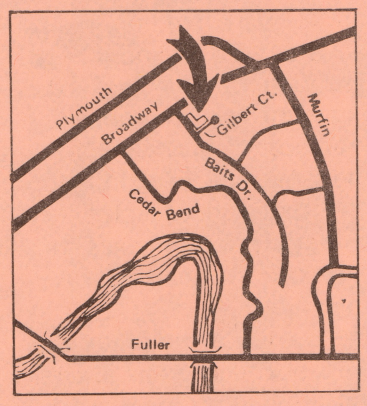
BETTER SWEAR OFF

A prosperous farmer, who had a reputation for convivial habits, was examining a Ford with a view of purchasing. The salesman went over all the points of interest and importance, explaining the advantages of each and showing the prospective customer what a great advantage the car would have over old Dobbin for his use. Just as the ruralite was about to give his order a thought struck him and it was all off with that Ford.

"No, I don't want it. Every time I come to town I get full as a tick, and then old Dobbin takes me home anyway, and that goldinged contraption won't do that."

From "Ford Smiles: All the Best Current Jokes About A Rattling Good Car," by Carleton B. Case, Shrewesbury Publishing Co., Chicago, 1917.

JANUARY MEETING LOCATION



WARREN, SUSAN STEELE WIN RIDDLE CONTEST

The select company below might well lay claim to being Ann Arbor's top riddle solvers.

Warren and Susan Steele succeeded in cracking 83 of the 150 riddles in the tough Clements Library "Christmas riddle" contest and won the $5 prize. Others in the top ten were Joyce Bonk, 82; Mrs. James T. Wilson, 74; Wystan and Catherine Stevens, 62; Marge Brunner, 61; Shirley Coleman, 51; Galen Wilson, 49; Lynette Michalik and Jeanette Schneeberger, each 40; and Reeva Cranor, 37.

THRIFTY EMPLOYER

From the days when a penny really was worth something:

"ONE CENT REWARD

"Ran away from the subscribers, an indented (sic) apprentice to the farming business, by the name of Charles Henderson, aged 11 years. I hereafter forbid any person from harboring or trusting him on my account as I will not pay any charges that he contracts.

Plymouth, 1833 Myron Gates"

From *Michigan Emigrant*, April 9, 1835 issue in Rare Book Room at U-M Graduate Library.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

8:00pm THURSDAY JANUARY 31, 1980

Stearns Building
U-M North Campus
Just off Broadway
on Baits Drive

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 96
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Ypsilanti Historical Museum
220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Dear Member,

It is time to renew your membership in the Washtenaw County Historical Society. Your support is truly appreciated, and makes it possible to continue publishing "Impressions" and arranging get-togethers and field trips to places of historic interest throughout the County.

Cordially,
Angela D. Welch

I wish to renew membership in the WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
January 1, 1980 to January 1, 1981

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

( ) Individual Membership $5.00
( ) Family Membership $9.00
( ) Individual Senior Citizen $4.00
( ) Family Senior Citizen $7.00

Please make check payable to: WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
and send to: Angela Dobson Welch, Membership Chairman
2220 Glendaloch Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Tel: 662-8891